

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An immersion heater device for aquariums and the like, comprising:

a heating element having a radiant zone;

a casing (2) which contains a the heating element (6), wherein the casing and including, at least in the region of a the radiant zone of the heating element, comprises a layered structure having at least one layer (8) of metal material and one layer (9) of plastics material, the layer of metal material being interposed between the heating element and the layer of plastics material, each of the layer of metal material and the layer of plastics material being in the form of a cylindrical tubular element, characterized in that wherein the tubular element of plastics material (9) is closed at one end and open at an axially opposite end while the tubular element of metal material is open at both ends.

2. (Currently Amended) The hHeatering device according to claim 1, wherein the layered structure comprises a layer of insulating material (21).

3. (Currently Amended) The hHeatering device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the layer of plastics material (9) and the layer of metal material (8) are in contact with each other.

4. (Currently Amended) The hHeatering device according to claim 3, wherein the layer of metal material and the layer of plastics material completely surround the heating element.

5. (Currently Amended) The hHeatering device according to claim 4, wherein the layer of metal material (8) and the layer of plastics material (9) constitute a continuous wall.

6. (Currently Amended) The hHeatering device according to ~~any one or more of claims 2 to 6~~, wherein the layer of insulating material ~~(21)~~ is interposed between the layer of metal material ~~(8)~~ and the heating element ~~(6)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The hHeatering device according to ~~any one or more of the preceding claims 1~~, wherein the layer of metal material ~~(8)~~ is produced from aluminium.

8. (Currently Amended) The hHeatering device according to ~~any one or more of the preceding claims 1~~, wherein the layer of plastics material ~~(9)~~ is produced from resin reinforced with glass fibre.

9. (Currently Amended) The hHeatering device according to claim ~~9~~8, wherein the resin is polyamide.

10. (Currently Amended) The hHeatering device according to ~~any one or more of claims 2 to 10~~, wherein the layer of insulating material ~~(21)~~ is produced from mecanite or ceramic material.

11. (Currently Amended) The hHeatering device according to ~~any one or more of the preceding claims 1~~, wherein the casing ~~(2)~~ comprises a second tubular element ~~(10)~~ which is connected to a first tubular element ~~(3)~~ having the layered structure, the second tubular element defining two axially opposite ends ~~(10a, 10b)~~ which are both open.

12. (Currently Amended) The hHeatering device according to claim ~~12~~1, ~~wherein further comprising a mechanical connection engaging the second tubular element is mechanically connected, with a sealing means being interposed, to the first tubular element (3) having a layered structure.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The hHeatering device according to claim ~~13~~2, wherein the mechanical connection ~~means between the tubular elements are~~ is of the permanent type.

14. (Currently Amended) The hHeatering device according to ~~any one or more of claims 12 to 14~~, further comprising a thermostat (13) for adapted to regulateing the temperature of the water of the aquarium, which thermostat ~~(13)~~ is housed in the second tubular element ~~(10)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The hHeatering~~ device according to ~~any one or more of claims 112 to 15~~, wherein the second tubular element ~~(10)~~ is produced from transparent plastics material.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The hHeatering~~ device according to ~~any one or more of the preceding claims 1~~, further comprising means for limiting the temperature by interrupting an the energy supply to the heating element ~~(6)~~ in the event that the temperature of the casing ~~(2)~~ exceeds a pre-set limit value.

17. (New) An immersion heater device for aquariums, comprising:

a heating element having an energy supply and a radiant zone;

a casing containing the heating element and including:

(a) at least in the region of the radiant zone of the heating element, a first tubular element with a layered structure having a layer of insulating material and at least one layer of metal material and one layer of plastic material, the layer of metal material being interposed between the heating element and the layer of plastic material, each of the layer of metal material and the layer of plastic material being in the form of a cylindrical tubular element, the tubular element of plastic material being closed at one end and open at an axially opposite end while the tubular element of metal material is open at both ends, and

(b) a second tubular element connected to the first tubular element and defining two axially opposite ends which are both open; and

means for limiting the temperature by interrupting the energy supply to the heating element in the event that the temperature of the casing exceeds a pre-set limit value.

18. (New) The immersion heater device according to claim 17 wherein the layer of plastic material and the layer of metal material are in contact with each other.

19. (New) The immersion heater device according to claim 17 wherein the layer of metal material is produced from aluminum and the layer of plastic material is produced from resin reinforced with glass fiber.

20. (New) An immersion heater device for aquariums, comprising:

a heating element having an energy supply and a radiant zone;

a casing containing the heating element and including:

(a) at least in the region of the radiant zone of the heating element, a first tubular element with a layered structure having a layer of insulating material and a continuous wall formed of at least one layer of metal material produced from aluminum and one layer of plastic material produced from resin reinforced with glass fiber, the layer of insulating material being interposed between the layer of metal material and the heating element, the layer of metal material being interposed between the heating element and the layer of plastic material, each of the layer of metal material and the layer of plastic material being in the form of a cylindrical tubular element and being in contact with each other while completely surrounding the heating element, the tubular element of plastic material being closed at one end and open at an axially opposite end while the tubular element of metal material is open at both ends, and

(b) a second tubular element produced from transparent plastic material and defining two axially opposite ends which are both open;

a mechanical connection engaging the second tubular element, with a seal interposed, to the first tubular element having a layered structure;

a thermostat adapted to regulate the temperature of the water of the aquarium and housed in the second tubular element; and

means for limiting the temperature by interrupting the energy supply to the heating element in the event that the temperature of the casing exceeds a pre-set limit value.